IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re A | Application of: |) |
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| Masay | yuki FUKUI et al. |)) |
| Applic | ation No.: Not Yet Assigned |) Group Art Unit: TBA) > Everning: TBA |
| Filed: | March 24, 2004 |) Examiner: TBA) \ |
| For: | PROTECTING DEVICE FOR CONNECTOR AND CONNECTOR ASSEMBLY WITH THE SAME |)) |

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the document listed on attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the listed document is attached. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the document listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate it was considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following is listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and is in a non-English language. An English language abstract is attached.

Customer No. 22,852 Attorney Docket No. 06753.0575

1. Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 10-154545 - The relevance of this

document is discussed at page 1 of the specification of the present application.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents is material or constitutes "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 24, 2004

David W. Hill

Reg. No. 28,220

Enclosures DWH/FPD/cma

| Atty. Docket No. | 06753.0575 | | Application TI | ВА | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Applicants | Masayuki FUKUI et | al. | <u> </u> | | | |
| Filing Date . | March 24, 2004 | Group: TBA | | | | |
| | | U.S. PATEN | T DOCUMENTS | <u>.</u> | | |
| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Issue Date | Name | Class | Sub Class | Filing Date If Appropriate |
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| | | FOREIGN PATI | ENT DOCUMENT | s | | |
| | Document Number | Publication Date | Country | Class | Sub Class | Translation Yes or No |
| | 10-154545 | 06/09/1998 | Japan | | | Abstract |
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| | OTHER DOCUME | NTS (Including Au | ıthor, Title, Date. | Pertinent F | Pages. Etc | :.) |

| | | Date Considered | | |
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| | | considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next applicant. | | |
| Form PTO 1449 | | Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commer | | |